

James and Mary Prindiville House, Built 1901 **1127 Avenue M**

New Orleans native and plaster contractor James Joseph Prindiville (1852-1915) built this gable-front Victorian cottage with inset porch in 1901. Prindiville moved to Galveston in 1874 with his widowed mother, Ellen, and was included in the 1875-1876 *Galveston City Directory* and noted as a plaster residing on 13th Street, between Church and Winnie. By 1890, he resided at 914 Market Street, where he also operated his contract plaster company, Prindiville & Minnick, with partner George Minnick.

In 1897, Prindiville married Brooklyn widow, Mary Gillis Doherty (1869-1936) and the couple moved to their new house on the corner of Avenue M and 12th Street with Doherty's children, Daniel and Mary. The 1900 Storm destroyed their house and in 1901, Prindiville built this gable-front Victorian cottage with inset porch in 1901. When completed, the property served as his plaster company's office and family's residence.

The Prindiville house served as residence for three generations of the Prindiville-Doherty family. By 1940, the U.S. Census recorded a household of ten, led by Mary Prindiville's son Daniel G. Doherty (1891-1965). Doherty followed his stepfather into the plaster trade and upon his death was the second oldest member of Plasterers Union No. 177 of Galveston. His son, Daniel Doherty Jr., inherited the house and sold it in 1967 to Joseph and Doris Banks, who utilized the house as their primary residence until their deaths.

Joseph A. Banks (1925-2003) was born in Galveston and baptized at Holy Rosary Catholic Church, the oldest African American Catholic Church in Texas. After he graduated from Central High School, the first African American high school in Texas, he enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corp and fought in the Pacific Theatre during World War II. When discharged, he returned to Galveston and worked for the United States Postal Service until he retired. In 1953, Banks married Galveston County native Doris Womack (1927-2014). Womack attended schools in La Marque and Hitchcock before she graduated from Galveston's Central High School. In 1946, she entered the nursing program at UTMB's John Sealy Hospital. Her nursing career spanned over 45 years during which time she cared for the couple's four children, actively participated in the Parent Teacher Association and served 20 years on the board of directors for the Marcus Joseph Netherly Memorial Scholarship, created after the death of her grandson Marcus, to award scholarships to African American college bound students.

The current owners acquired the Prindiville House in 2021. Prior to their purchase, the interior was updated and modernized to create an open floorplan. The house is located in the San Jacinto

Neighborhood, just two blocks away from the historic Galveston Seawall, a State of Texas Antiquities Landmark added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

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